RE: Interview Data Center Water Usage

From Cline, Shonnie <SCline@auroragov.org>

To info@auditttheauditor.com

CC Shedlowski, Kirby-Lynn<KShedlow@auroragov.org>

Date Monday, April 20th, 2026 at 8:50 PM

Francisco,

It was nice meeting you on Saturday and having the opportunity to talk through some of these issues in person. As promised, here is the link to Aurora's Large Water User Guide.

The guide was first incorporated into Aurora Water's standards and specifications in 2023 and is now codified, meaning it formally informs how large water-using industries are evaluated in the development process. Its purpose is to ensure that proposed uses align with Aurora's long-term water supply and sustainability goals, particularly by addressing consumptive use and requiring high-efficiency approaches.

Aurora has made a number of publicly adopted code and policy updates in recent years to better align growth with available water supplies. These include limitations on nonfunctional turf, requirements for water-wise landscaping, and additional scrutiny of large water users. These decisions reflect a proactive approach to managing a finite water supply in a way that supports long-term reliability.

Aurora's approach to water conservation has also been recognized at a national level. We are one of only a small number of utilities to receive Platinum-level recognition for water conservation and efficiency from the Alliance for Water Efficiency, reflecting a long-standing and measurable commitment to responsible water management.

In addition, our General Manager, Marshall Brown, has been actively engaged in basin-wide efforts to address water scarcity, including helping to lead a multi-state commitment among Colorado River Basin water agencies focused on advancing meaningful water conservation. Aurora has taken that commitment seriously and continues to incorporate those principles into our planning and operations.

It is also important to note that Aurora Water is one part of a broader development review and approval process. While we provide technical analysis and recommendations related to water supply and sustainability, land use decisions ultimately involve multiple departments, leadership, and elected officials.

With respect to data centers, under current policy, facilities that rely on fully consumptive, high-water-use cooling systems would not be considered viable in Aurora. Proposals are expected to demonstrate efficient, non-consumptive or significantly reduced-consumptive approaches in order to align with current standards.

For facilities that were approved or constructed prior to these policy changes, Aurora Water does not have the authority to retroactively impose new requirements or mandate operational changes unless those facilities seek expansion or modification that triggers current standards.

As with most municipalities, policies in place today reflect an evolution based on improved data, changing conditions, and lessons learned over time. Aurora continues to refine its approach with a focus on long-term system reliability and sustainability.

If you have specific questions after reviewing the guide, I'm happy to respond to those in writing.

Best,

Large Water User Guide

Shonnie Cline

Deputy Director of Internal and External Affairs

Aurora Water | City of Aurora

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From: info@audittheauditor.com <info@audittheauditor.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 11:02 PM
To: AuroraWaterPR <AuroraWaterPR@auroragov.org>
Subject: Interview Data Center Water Usage

Hello Aurora Water Department

I am an investigative journalist and would like to video interview with a water department representative about data centers water usage, wastewater, payment, regulation, etc.

Francisco Soto

https://audittheauditor.com/data-centers-in-aurora-colorado-the-public-was-not-warned-or-educated-about-consequences

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